

2011 Events at Petersburg National Battlefield

rev. 1/29/11

Black Soldiers in the Siege of Petersburg

Date: Saturday, February 5, 2011
Times: 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Robert Webster, (804)732-3531 x223

This tour will highlight the United States Colored Troops roles in the siege of Petersburg from May 4, 1865-April 3, 1865.

Servitude at Appomattox Plantation

Date: Saturday, February 12, 2011
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point, 1001 Pecan Ave., Hopewell
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

This ranger talk and tour will focus on those who served the wealthy Eppes Family who owned Appomattox Plantation. Prior to the Civil War the Eppes owned a number of enslaved people who took care of the daily household duties. Following the war, they would hire domestic servants and white nurses to perform many of the same tasks. Learn more about the individuals who worked for the Eppes and the types of duties they performed. The program is free and some walking is involved.

Fortifications

Date: Saturday, February 19, 2011
Time: 9:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Commences at Eastern Front Visitor Center
Contact: Randy Watkins, (804)732-3531 x205

This tour stands alone but is a prerequisite to the Fortifications, Ph.D. tour. It explores the basic field fortifications on the Petersburg National Battlefield Eastern Front, and on NPS and some non-NPS sites on Bermuda Hundred between the James and Appomattox Rivers including Fort Clifton in Colonial Heights, Cobb's Hill, Parker's Battery, Battery Dantzler, Fort Stevens, and Drewry's Bluff. Participants will learn about the basic theory of field and siege fortifications, engineering techniques, structural components, etc.

Participation is by reservation only with a maximum of ten vehicles. Reservations will be accepted beginning Saturday, 12 February 2011. Call 804-732-3531, ext. 205 at any time day or night. Leave name, best contact telephone number (repeat twice and slowly), e-mail address if used, and number of people in party. Confirmation will be made via telephone. Warm clothing, bottled water, and sturdy

walking shoes are recommended. Considerable time will be spent walking in woods and over rough terrain.

Rain Date: Saturday, February 26, 2011

Freedom Ball

Date: Saturday, February 19, 2011
Time: 6:00-11:00 p.m.
Location: Union Train Station, 103 River Rd., Petersburg
Contact: Robert Webster, (804)732-3531 x223

In partnership, Petersburg National Battlefield and Triangle Center for Development are sponsoring the first African American Freedom Ball which is to honor those who suffered and died under slavery and those who fought to end slavery.

Soldier Camp Life of the United States Colored Troops

Date: Saturday & Sunday, March 5 & 6, 2011
Location: Eastern Front Unit, Tour Stop #3
Contact: Robert Webster, (804) 732-3531 x223

Come meet United States Colored soldiers in a recreated winter camp. Musket and cooking demonstrations will occur throughout the weekend.

Confederate Living History at Fort Stedman

Date: Saturday & Sunday, March 19-20, 2011
Time: 9:00-5:00 Saturday and 9:00-1:00 on Sunday
Location: Tour Stop 5 on Eastern Front driving tour
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

This living history will focus in part on the state of the Army of Northern Virginia's soldiers in March 1865. Visitors will have an opportunity to talk with the living historians to discuss issues weighing in on Confederate troops such as Sherman's campaign, the disaster of Hood's Tennessee Campaign, the state of the Army of Northern Virginia's supplies, and learn about how troops felt about the March 1865 decision to recruit black men into the Confederate military. Visitors may be surprised to hear the diversity of perspectives regarding the hopes of the Confederate soldiers for their country by spring 1865. Firing demonstrations will help highlight the March 25, 1865 fighting at Fort Stedman.

146th Anniversary of the Battle of Five Forks

Date: Sunday, March 27, 2011
Time: 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Location: 9840 Courthouse Road, Dinwiddie, VA
Contact: Tracy Chernault, (804)732-3531 x218

Artillery and musket firing demonstrations will commemorate the anniversary of the April 1, 1865 battle that was instrumental in ending the Petersburg Campaign. Free.

General Grant Meets President Lincoln at City Point

Date: Saturday, April 2, 2011
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point, 1001 Pecan Ave., Hopewell
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

President Lincoln visited City Point in late March of 1865. He would spend two of the last three weeks of his life meeting with Lt. General Ulysses Grant and many others including people in Richmond and Petersburg. This event allows visitors a chance to meet with Pres. Lincoln, General Grant, and Mrs. Julia Grant. Programs held throughout the day will focus on the President's experience at City Point, the lessons he learned in his life, as well as the personal and military life of General Grant and Mrs. Grant. Free.

146th Anniversary of the Battle of Fort Gregg

Date: Saturday, April 2, 2011
Time: 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Near the intersection of Simpson and Weakley Roads, Dinwiddie, VA
Contact: Tracy Chernault, (804)732-3531 x218

Artillery demonstrations will highlight the commemoration of the “Alamo of the Confederacy” which occurred on April 2, 1865.

President Lincoln Visits Petersburg

Date: Sunday, April 3, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Thomas Wallace House, SW Corner of Brown and S. Market Streets
Contact: Robert Webster, (804) 732-3531 ext. 223

In early April, 1865, after Petersburg fell to Union forces, President Abraham Lincoln paid a visit to the damaged city. He met with General Grant at the home of Thomas Wallace. Join us for this living history

event which examines, with the use of historic records, how that meeting transpired. The Thomas Wallace House in Petersburg was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

Zouaves at Five Forks

Date: Sunday, April 3, 2011
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Five Forks Visitor Contact Station, 9840 Courthouse Road, Dinwiddie, VA
Contact: Tracy Chernault, (804)732-3531 x218

Historian Pat Schroeder will speak about the role of Zouave soldiers in the Union army during the Battle of Five Forks.

Hard Liquor and Women

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2011
Time: Multiple programs: 11:00 a.m., 1:15 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.
Location: Old Towne Petersburg (Commences at Farmer's Market Parking Lot)
Contact: Randy Watkins, (804)732-3531 x205

This program explores the ways off-duty soldiers spent their time in the city of Petersburg after many trying days in the trenches. Multiple scenes are staged about Old Town Petersburg. Each depicts an activity that allowed soldiers to escape army life. Some were legal, some illegal, some moral and other less so. One scene depicts a local tavern complete with bartender. Another scene may involve a minister preaching to the soldiers, gamblers in alleyways, prostitutes plying their trade, or soldiers on a picnic with a local family. Participants follow a newspaper reporter researching the way off-duty soldiers impact the daily life of Petersburg citizens as he encounters people from all walks of life. Free.

How to Act: Virginia and Appomattox Plantation Goes to War

Date: Saturday and Sunday, May 14 & 15, 2011
Time: 9:00-5:00 Saturday and 9:00-3:00 on Sunday
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

Visitors to the Grant's Headquarters at City Point unit of Petersburg National Battlefield will be able to talk to living historians portraying Richard and Elizabeth Eppes and members of the enslaved community. They can expect to hear about how the Eppes family's plantation community reacted to the secession of Virginia from the United States in the spring of 1861.

Women in the Civil War

Date: Saturday, May 28, 2011
Time: 10:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

Women served a variety of roles during the Civil War. Living historians will portray some of the most interesting women who spent time at City Point including Confederate spy Rose Greenhow, Julia Grant, Elizabeth Keckley, and Mary Todd Lincoln.

General P.G.T. Beauregard

Date: May 29, 2011
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center Auditorium
Contact: Tracy Chernault, (804)732-3531 x218

This ranger talk will focus on the officer in charge of Petersburg's defense in the spring of 1864.

They Also Served: Animals in War

Date: May 29, 2011
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center Auditorium
Contact: Betsy Dinger, (804)732-3531 x208

Throughout military history, animals have gone to war alongside humans. And there was great love and loyalty between the men and the animals who "served" from here at Petersburg to those serving on the front lines today. Join us as we look at the forgotten "heroes" of our military.

Sailors and Marines at City Point

Date: Saturday and Sunday, June 4 & 5, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Sunday.
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point
Reservations: Required
Contact: Randy Watkins, (804)732-3531 x205

City Point wasn't simply a United States Army operation. The United States Navy played a roll protecting Grant's headquarters and supply depot and the U. S. Marines supported the navy. Living historians representing the navy and marine corps will conduct demonstrations of their daily life ashore

at City Point with a camp and naval and marine demonstrations. Living historians will be teaching about celestial navigation, marlinspike seamanship and other naval skills. Naval and marine drill will be demonstrated in addition to musket firing and artillery demonstrations. Free.

City Point and the Civil War

Date: Saturday, June 4, 2011
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point
Reservations: Required.
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney, (804) 732-3531 x222

Evening walking tour of the City Point neighborhood in Hopewell which will highlight the impact the Civil War had on those who lived in the town before the war and how the town was transformed during the Union occupation in 1864 and 1865. The hour-long tour will begin in the parking lot at the Grant's Headquarters at City Point unit located at 1001 Pecan Avenue, Hopewell, Virginia. The tour will last approximately an hour and visitors should wear comfortable walking shoes.

The Flags of Five Forks

Date: Sunday, June 12, 2011
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Five Forks Visitor Contact Station, 9840 Courthouse Rd., Dinwiddie, VA
Contact: Tracy Chernault, (804)732-3531 x218

In honor of Flag Day, this program will focus on Civil War flags.

Juneteenth National Freedom Day Celebration

Date: Saturday, June 18, 2011
Time: 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
Location: Grant's Headquarters at City Point
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

The Washington Cultural Foundation and Petersburg National Battlefield invites the public to come together for a libation ceremony opens at the Boardwalk at the bottom of Pecan Street. A short ceremonial walk up Pecan Street to Appomattox Manor grounds with a program that opens to festivities with food, exhibits, and community for adults and children. National Park Service provides tours and interpretive activities. Join Tri-Cities community, organizations, families, municipal and business leaders as we honor this historic legacy of General Order #3, (linked with the Emancipation Proclamation) that triggered the evolution for the peace, justice and freedom of all people in America. Share the Enduring Legacy of Juneteenth National Freedom Celebration.

Media Contacts: Ms Rebecca-Rose, 804-541-2695 or Ranger Emmanuel Dabney, National Park Service 804-732-3531 ext.222

Corling's Corner

Date: Saturday, June 18, 2011
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Corner of Bank and Sycamore Street in Petersburg
Contact: Robert Webster, (804)732-3531 x223

Corling's Corner was the site where black people were bought, sold and held in slave pens. During the antebellum period they were also rented as domestics and laborers at the end of each year. Come join us for a wreath laying ceremony to honor those who suffered from the inhumane treatment.

Battle of the Crater

Date: Saturday-Sunday, July 30-31, 2011
Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm, Saturday
10:00am - 2:00pm, Sunday
Location: Tour Stop #8 on Eastern Front driving tour
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

This event commemorates one of the most famous events of the Siege. Join park rangers and living historians in exploring the battle and learning about those who fought one of the most desperate actions of the Civil War.

Zouaves in the Battle of Weldon Railroad

Date: Sunday, August 21, 2011
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Poplar Grove National Cemetery, 8005 Vaughan Rd., Petersburg, VA
Contact: Tracy Chernault, (804)732-3531 x218

This free program features historian Pat Schroeder speaking on the role of Zouave soldiers in the Battle of Weldon Railroad.

Architecture, Communities, Civil War, and Emancipation: Poplar Lawn Historic District

Date: Saturday, September 10, 2011
Time: 11:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Location: First Baptist Church, 236 Harrison Street, Petersburg
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney, (804) 732-3531 x222

Join Ranger Emmanuel Dabney on an hour-long guided tour of the historic Poplar Lawn neighborhood in Petersburg, Virginia. Visitors on the tour will have the opportunity to see sites associated with Petersburg's pre-Civil War and wartime African-American religious community. See where prominent Petersburg residents, George W. Bolling, Reuben and John D. Ragland lived and learn about their lives before, during, and after the Civil War. The tour also includes a stop in Poplar Lawn Park, the site of a Civil War hospital for captured Union soldiers and a community gathering space. **Due to safety concerns in crossing streets, this tour is limited to 20 participants. This tour requires reservations which can be made with Ranger Emmanuel Dabney at 804-732-3531 ext. 222. Once the reservations fill up, your name will be added to a waiting list and if any openings become available, you will be called to see if you can attend.** Free.

Mortuary Affairs Throughout the Ages

Date: Saturday, October 15, 2011
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center Auditorium
Contact: Betsy Dinger, (804)732-3531 x208

"Show me the manner in which a Nation... cares for its dead and I will measure... the tender sympathies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals." These were the words British Prime Minister William Gladstone which are fitting when describing the important job performed by those who serve and have served the fallen. Learn more about these military men and women who care for our service members and help their families when the ultimate sacrifice is made.

Poplar Grove National Cemetery Luminary Event

Date: Saturday, November 12, 2011
Time: 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Location: Poplar Grove National Cemetery
Contact: Elizabeth Dinger, (804) 732-3531 x208

This event honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country. Over 6,000 candles will be lit over the graves of Union soldiers while bagpipe music plays to help visitors remember all soldiers who gave and continue to give their lives to defend this nation.

They Also Served: Animals in War

Date: November 13, 2011
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center Auditorium
Contact: Betsy Dinger, (804) 732-3531 x208

Throughout military history, animals have gone to war alongside humans. And there was great love and loyalty between the men and the animals who “served” from here at Petersburg to those serving on the front lines today. Join us as we look at the forgotten “heroes” of our military.

Thanksgiving in the Trenches

Date: Saturday, November 19, 2011
Time: Multiple programs: 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m.
Location: Eastern Front, Stop 3
Contact: Randy Watkins, (804)732-3531 x205

A night-time walking tour, participants follows a Ranger along a path lighted by oil lanterns. Five scenes depict scenes demonstrating how the soldiers, both Union and Confederate, and their families back home observed the Thanksgiving season. Scenes range from the peaceful and hopeful to the frivolous and violent. One involves the night firing of a 12 pound Napoleon cannon.

Participation is by reservation only. Reservations will be accepted beginning December 1, 2011. Call 804-732-3531, ext. 205 at any time day or night. Leave name, best contact telephone number (repeat twice and slowly), e-mail address if used, and number of people in party. Confirmation will be made via return telephone call or e-mail. Visitors are cautioned to dress for the weather.

Christmas 1861 on the Plantation

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2011
Location: Grant’s Headquarters at City Point
Contact: Emmanuel Dabney, (804)732-3531 x222

Visitors to the Grant’s Headquarters at City Point unit of Petersburg National Battlefield can expect to hear about how the Eppes family’s plantation community plans to deal with Christmas in light of the Civil War.

Recurring Programs

Artillery Demonstrations

Date: To Be Determined (at meeting on 16 January 1011)
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Sundays unless otherwise noted)
Location: Eastern Front Visitor Center (Unless otherwise noted)
Fee: Admission to battlefield or valid NPS pass
Type: Artillery Demonstrations
Contact: Randy Watkins, (804)732-3531 x205

The crash of artillery will again echo across Petersburg National Battlefield. Volunteer living historians under the supervision of a certified NPS Historic Weapons Supervisor will fire a minimum of twelve blank artillery rounds from a faithfully reproduced 12 pound Napoleon cannon. Starting with a minimum of ten rounds, the gun detachment will conduct firing demonstrations not less than ten minutes apart as audiences collect until the ammunition is exhausted. Between shots cannoneers demonstrate their drills. As time permit the audience will be invited to take part in non-firing drills and learn the skills of the artilleryman. Visitors are encouraged to come early to be sure to experience the cannon firing. Once ammunition is expended, the gun detachment will continue to drill until 4:00.

Summer Daily Tour Schedule for Petersburg National Battlefield

Eastern Front Unit: June 6 – August 12

Caravan Tours Depart from Visitor Center twice daily

10:00-11:15 & 2:00-3:15

Battle of the Crater Walking Tour

11:30-12:15, 3:30-4:15

Walking Tour Begins at Stop #8 Parking Lot

Evenings on the Battlefield

June 5 – August 2

Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Grant Gates 732-3531 x202

From the opening assaults on Petersburg to the Battle of Five Forks, these hour-long ranger-led tours will take a closer look at the fighting on the battlefields surrounding Petersburg.

2nd Annual Twilight Concert Series at City Point

Free concerts featuring Civil War era, Americana, and African American spiritual music will occur at the General Grant's Headquarters Unit of Petersburg National Battlefield. All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. and are expected to last approximately one hour.

May 20:	The Ralph Jones Group (Americana Music)
June 17:	The Christiannaires (African-American spirituals, R&B)
July 15:	TBA
August 19:	The Fort Lee Concert Band

Contact: Ann Blumenschine, (804)732-3531 x203

Mounted Trail Rides

If you own a horse and would like to see areas of Petersburg National Battlefield away from the pavement of the tour road, here is your chance. These ranger led tours will take you to areas where soldiers camped, fought, and died. Tours take place at both the Eastern Front Unit and the Five Forks Battlefield.

February 12:	Mounted ride of the Five Forks Battlefield
March 12:	Mounted ride of the Eastern Front Unit
October 15:	Mounted ride of the Five Forks Battlefield
December 17:	Moonlight Ride of the Eastern Front Unit

By Appointment Only - Special Tours of Petersburg National Battlefield and historic Petersburg

Tour the Petersburg area in period dress with ranger Robert Webster. If you own a 19th century period costume and would like to tour Petersburg to learn more about the soldiers and civilians who endured the siege of Petersburg, call Robert Webster at (804)732-3531 x223 to schedule a 1:00 p.m. tour.